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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : HANSJORG DURR ET AL.  
SERIAL NO. : 09/341,227  
FILED : August 27, 1999  
FOR : ELECTROKINETIC SAMPLE PREPARATION  
ART UNIT : 1655  
EXAMINER : B. Sisson

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September 27, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to further examination in view of Applicants' accompanying request for continued examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 18 and 24 to read as follows:

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C1 --18. (Once Amended) A device for use in performing the method of claim 13, said device being in the form of a chip module, said device comprising 1-400 capillaries with